

Message Text

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SUBJECT: INITIAL REACTION TO BRAZILIAN VOTE ON ANTI-ZIONISM
RESOLUTION

REF: A) STATE 249536 B) STATE 248677

SUMMARY: BRAZIL'S VOTE FOR THE ANTI-ZIONISM RESOLUZION IN THE UN
THIRD COMMITTEE HAS DRAWN EXTENSIVE AND SHARPLY NEGATIVE REACTION.
MUJOR PAPERS HAVE PUBLISHED EDITORIALS CONDEMNING THE VOTE, GENERALLY
IN VEHEMENT TERMS. IN ADDITION, THERE HAVE APPEARED INTERVIEWS
WITH IRAQUI AMBASSADOR WHO EXPRESSED HIS THANKS FOR THE
VOTE AND THE HOPE THAT ECONOMIC RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO
COUNTRIES WILL BE STRENGTHENED IN THE FUTURE AND WITH THE
ISRAELI CHARGE WHO CONDEMNED THE ANTI-SEMITIC NATURE OF THE
RESOLUTION AND HOPED THAT BRAZIL WOULD RECONSIDER ITS POSITION.
END SUMMARY.

1. BRAZILIAN SUPPORT FOR ANTI-ZIONISM RESOLUTION IN THIRD
COMMITTEE HAS SO FAR EVOKED EXTENSIVE AND AT TIMES VEHEMENT
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MEDIA COMMENT AND SPECULATIVE REPORTING. THE PRESTIGIOUS

ESTADO DE SAO PAULO OCTOBER 22 REPORTED COMMENTS BY FOREIGN MINISTER SILVEIRA (VISITIN LONDON) ON THE BRAZILIAN VOTE, WHICH PAPER CHARACTERIZED AS "LACONIC AND SURPRISING." SILVEIRA WAS QUOTED AS DEFENDING THE VOTE BY SAYING, "WE DIDN'T VOTE AGAINST ZIONISM, WE VOTED AGAINUT RACIAL DISCRIMINATION." THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S REMARKS WERE AMPLIFIED BY A PRESS SPOKESMAN WHO SAID, "ZIONISM EFFECTIVELY CONSTITUTES A RACIST MOVEMENT AND, AS SUCH, BRAZIL, WHICH HAS ALWAYS SHOWN ITSELF TO BE AGAINST ANY FORM OF DISCRIMINATION, AND TO CONDEMN IT."

2. IN SPECULATIVE AARTICLES, THE ESTADO HAS SAID THAT " DIPLOMATIC SOURCES" HAVE EXPRESSED SURPRISE AT THE FUROR OVER THE VOTE SINCE IT IS NOT SEEN BYTHESE SOURCES TO BE A CHANGE OF POLICY. AT THE SAME TIME, HOWEVER, BRAZILIAN DIPLOMATS WERE DESCRIBED AS SURPRIZED THAT BRAZIL DID NOT ABSTAIN. IT HAS BEEN REPORTED IN VARIOUS PRESS ACCOUNTS THAT THE FINAL DECISION FOR THE VOTE WAS MADE NOT BY THE FOREIGN MINISTER BUT BY THE PRESIDENT.

3. THE ESTADO ALSO PUBLISHED A STATEMENT BY IRAQI AMBASSADOR JIHAD KARAM IN WHICH HE SAID THAT THE ARABS HAVE ALWAYS UNDERSLOOD THE NEUTRAL POSITION OF FRIENDLY COUNTRIES ANDSTHANKED THE BRAZILIANS NOT JUST FOR THE VOTE, BUT "FOR UNDERSTANDING THE JUSTNESS OF OUR CAUSE." HITTING THAT OBSERVERS THINK IS AT THE HEART OF THE BRAZILIAN VOTEN (-4-. 23,5 9, 59 -6, "I HOPE...THAT ECONOMIC RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTIRES CAN BE REDEFINED IN BROADER TERMS MORE FAVORABLE TO BRAZIL" DURING MEETINGS SCHEDULED FOR THIS YEAR. HE ALSO SAID THAT WHILE IRAQ CANNOT SELL PETROLEUM AT PRICES BELOW THOSE AGREED TO BY OPEC, HE WAS SURE THAT "DURING THE NEXT MEETINGS SOME ECONOMIC MECHANISM CAN BE ENCOUNTERED TO ALLEVIATE THE SACRIFICES WHICH HAVE BEEN DEMANDED OF THE BRAZILIAN ECONOMY."

4. BRASILIA PRESS GAVE FAVORABLE COVARAGESTO ISRAELI CHARGE'S STATEMENT THAT "THE ISRAELI PEOPLE STILL HOPE THAT BRAZIL WILL RECONSIDER ITS DECISION TO SUPPORT THE ARAB RESOLUTION" AND TO HISHCOMMENTS ON THE ANTI-SEMITIC NATURE OF THE RESOLUTION. THE PRESS ALSO REPORTED THAT THE ISRAELI REACTION, UNCLASSIFIED

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IN GENERAL, WAS ONE OF PAINFUL SURPRISE, ESPECIALLY SINCE BRAZIL WAS CLOSELY LINKED WITH THE FORMATION OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL (FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER OSWALDO ARANHA WAS PRESIDENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT THE TIME, A FACT WHICH WAS AMPLY NOTED IN PRESS COVERAGE), AND THAT BRAZILIAN AMBASSADOR MIGUEL PARANHOS DO RIO BRANCO HAD BEEN CALLED TO JERUSALEM. SOME OF THESE STORIES ALSO CITED SPECULATION THAT CHILEAN AND MEXICAN VOTES CAUSED MORE CONCERN

IN ISRAEL THAT THE BRAZILIAN VOTE SINCE ISRAEL HAS REFRAINED FROM CRITICIZING THE CHILEANS' HUMAN RIGHTS POSITION AND MEXICAN PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA HAD JUST VISITED THE COUNTRY.

5. EDITORIAL COMMENT ON THE BRAZILIAN VOTE HAS SO FAR BEEN UNIFORMLY AND SHARPLY NEGATIVE. EDITORIAL HAVE CRITICIZED THE RESOLUTION AS BEING ASSENTIALLY ANTI-SEMITIC AND THE BRAZILIAN VOTE AS BEING A SELL-OUT OF MORAL PRINCIPLES WHICH HAVE ALWAYS GUIDED THE COUNTRY. THEY HAVE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT BRAZIL THUS FAR HAS RECEIVED NOTHING FROM THE GOVERNMENT'S ATTEMPT TO APPEASE THE ARABS. THE ESTADO DE SAO PAULO HAS RUN TWO EDITORIALS ON THE SUBJECT: IN THE FIRST, IT SCORED THE RESOLUTION AS BEING THE CLOSING OF A CYCLE OF ANTI-SEMITISM BEGUN WITH HITLER AND DESCRIBED THE BRAZILIAN VOTE AS "NOT ONLY MORALLY INJUSTIFIABLE BUT ALSO POLITICALLY INCOMPREHENSIBLE." THE IMPORTANT JORNAL DO BRAZIL ACCUSED THE GOVERNMENT OF "ACTING IN THIS SAD EPISODE WITHOUT TAKING INTO ACCOUNT OUR PRINCIPLES OF RELIFIOUS LIBERTY, POLITICAL SELF-DETERMINATION AND RACIAL EQUALITY." IN THE FOLHA DE SAO PUALO, COLUMNIST ALBERTO DINES CALLED THE VOTE THE "MORAL PRICE OF TOTAL SUBMISSION TO THE AIMS OF THE ARAB COUNTIRES WHICH CONTROL THE WORLD ECONOMY."

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